

Remarks

Claims 1-14 are currently pending. No claims are canceled or amended. Applicant submits no new matter is added herein.

Applicant notes the Office Action Summary in the outstanding Office Action indicates that only claim 1 is pending. However, the Office Action Summary also indicates that claims 1-14 are subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. Applicant requests the Examiner clarify the contrary statements on the Office Action Summary and confirm claims 1-14 are currently pending.

Species Election

The Examiner requires the election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner requires election of one of the following species:

- Species I: a seal to peel off the communication portion by the expanding.
- Species II: a folded tube having elasticity to recover by the expanding.
- Species III: a clip to drop by the expanding.
- Species IV: a seal to peel off the communication portion by the hanging.
- Species V: a clip to drop by the hanging.
- Species VI: a clogging member to be detached by the hanging.

Applicant hereby elects Species I, a seal to peel off the communication portion by the expanding, for prosecution. The claims readable on Species I are claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 12, and 14.

The Examiner indicates no claims are generic. Applicant disagrees and submits claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 14 are generic since the claims read on each and all of the species enumerated by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this point.

Applicant understands that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR §1.141.

Applicant believes that the foregoing election fully complies with the Office Action and that all claims of the application are allowable. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicant believes that no fees are due with the submission of this Response. If, however, it is deemed that any fees are in fact due, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Richard R. Michaud/
Richard R. Michaud
Registration No. 40,088
Attorney for Applicant

Michaud-Duffy Group LLP
306 Industrial Park Road, Suite 206
Middletown, CT 06457-1532
Tel: (860) 632-7200
Fax: (860) 632-8269